

TITLE  
SOLID IMAGING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD WITH COATING STATION

ABSTRACT

5           A solid imaging apparatus and method produces an integral three-  
dimensional object from a multiplicity of cross sectional portions of the object  
by selectively exposing successive layers of a liquid photoformable  
composition to actinic radiation. The apparatus includes a vessel for  
containing the composition so as to present a free surface, and a movable  
10       platform disposed within the vessel below the free surface. Part of the  
composition is transferred above the free surface by lowering and raising a  
dispenser at predetermined positions located away from the platform. A  
doctor blade contacts the composition transferred above the free surface, and  
then moves over the platform to form a substantially uniform layer of the  
15       composition.

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